

not to accept the offer because of his age of 63 years. This was no doubt a very difficult thing for Dr. Richardson to do because there could not have been anything that he would rather have had happen to him, if only it could have come at a better time in his life.

Another point of interest is the vehemence with which he expresses his dislike of the conception of a combined Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Of course he was brought up under the other system and this represents typical Hopkins thinking. He will be distressed by the current move to effect a combination when the present retiring departmental chairmen are replaced.

DANIEL G. MORTON, M.D.

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PREVENTIVE MEDICINE—Principles of Prevention in the Occurrence and Progression of Disease—Edited by Herman E. Hilleboe, M.D., Commissioner of Health, State of New York; and Granville W. Larimore, M.D., Deputy Commissioner of Health, State of New York. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1959. 731 pages, 59 figures, \$12.00.

This text is outstandingly attuned to the instruction of physicians and medical students in their present-day responsibilities for preventive medicine. Public health workers recognize that the State health departments of California and New York have the most advanced programs of research and service in the nation; both tie their programs into medical practice. Dr. Herman Hilleboe, New York's Commissioner of Health, has developed very extensive teaching responsibilities of his staff in the medical and public health schools of his region. In this text we can study those excellent presentations. In no sense are they provincial and are just as applicable to California as to New York.

The content is developed logically in three parts. Part One is the Prevention of Occurrence. Part Two is Prevention of Progression. Part Three is Supporting Sciences for Preventive Medicine. Under Part One, Primary Prevention, are first considered environmental factors, with excellent discussions of the basic problems of water, milk, waste; but, in addition, the very modern problems of housing, accidents, air pollution, ionizing radiation and medical defense against atomic attack or natural disaster. These are the most concise and at the same time, thoroughly up-to-date discussions to be found in any book of 1959.

Next the authors consider prophylactic measures against diseases. The bacterial, virus, rickettsial, fungus, parasitic and venereal diseases are succinctly discussed systematically under the headings *definition, etiological agent, diagnosis, epidemiology, treatment and prevention and control*. Preventive aspects of nutrition, dentistry, and maternal and child health complete "primary prevention." "Secondary prevention" again emphasizes the role of the practicing physician with extensive discussions of early detection, systematic follow-up, with correction and then rehabilitation. There are excellent summaries of alleviation of alcoholism and narcotic addiction.

The Third Part, "Supporting Science for Preventive Medicine," includes the role of education, not only general health education, but also a practical chapter on patient education and one on the postgraduate education of physicians. Its second section includes a discussion of pertinent specialized sciences such as social work, public health nursing, the hospital, and a very stimulating and provocative chapter on epidemiology. Dr. Hilleboe concludes with his authoritative, though perhaps too condensed consideration of official and voluntary health agencies. A master administrator, he might well have expanded this chapter to the advantage of all of us.

While there are thirty-one collaborators, their styles are

in harmony and each stresses only salient points with notable emphasis on the role of the physician in practice. Each author cites fully current references, a number of 1958 articles being cited. Thus, amphotericin B is mentioned for the deep mycoses, so is Nalline as the test for presence of narcotic addiction and, with an eye to the immediate future, Hilleboe alludes to the full *fifty* states!

This is an outstanding acquisition, recommended for its completeness, readability, and, especially, its original perspective.

CHARLES E. SMITH, M.D.

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MIND IF I SMOKE?—Harold Shryock, M.A., M.D. Pacific Press Publishing Association, Mountain View, California, 1959. 160 pages: paper binding, \$.50; cloth binding, \$2.50.

This small booklet deals with the pros and cons of smoking, with a few omissions. The author notes the association of lung cancer with cigarette smoking but fails to note the well-established association of bladder cancer with the same drug. He quotes the Hammond and Horn conclusions but not the Berkson. He believes that many of those who defend smoking are either engaged in the tobacco industry or are swayed by the Federal taxes resulting from tobacco consumption. The book is reportedly designed for laymen but it is doubtful if readers of weekly or monthly magazines will find anything particularly new. Nevertheless, if it helps to cure a few addicts it will have served some purpose.

If a second edition is published it should include reference to "Emotional and Other Selected Characteristics of Cigarette Smokers and Nonsmokers as Related to Epidemiological Studies of Lung Cancer and Other Diseases" by Lilienfeld (Journal National Cancer Institute, 22, 259, 1959).

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NOTES OF A SOVIET DOCTOR—2nd Edition, Revised and Enlarged—G. S. Pondeov, Honored Physician of the Georgian SSR. Translated from Russian by Basil Haigh, M.A., M.B., B.Chir. (Originally published by the Georgian Medical Press, 1957.) Consultants Bureau, Inc., 227 West 17th Street, New York 11, N. Y., 1959. 238 pages, \$4.95.

This book is of great interest to the American reader and one's general impression is that East is East and West is West and never the twain shall meet. The writer exudes an almost evangelistic enthusiasm for Marxist-Leninist philosophy and points out its application to socialized medicine. The first chapter opens with the recognition that the Soviet doctor's education is purely theoretical; that he or she is "today launched straight from his medical school into working on his own responsibility." This inadequacy is to be overcome by ensuring "that the medical schools produce literate and scientifically able doctors with a highly developed sense of patriotic duty and a readiness to serve their country wholeheartedly." And in conclusion "only that doctor who combines a specialist's knowledge of medicine with a Marxist and Leninist interpretation of society and who is firmly grounded in the materialistic doctrine can be regarded as a perfect Soviet doctor."

But the bulk of the book is a historical sketch of the development of medicine with much interesting material on Russian contributions and chapters containing excellent advice about the doctor's attitude to disease and patients which could be read to advantage by every medical student and young doctor.

However, despite these redeeming features, one has the feeling that

All that's said is marr'd.

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